

# GOPEX at the Starfire Optical Range

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*The Starfire Optical Range successfully conducted laser uplink experiments to the Galileo spacecraft during the early morning hours of December 9, 10, 11, and 12, 1992, when the spacecraft was at ranges between 700,000 and 3 million km from Earth. Analysts at JPL have reported as many as 79 pulse detections by the spacecraft. The best weather conditions occurred on the second night when 37 pulses were detected with as many as five on one frame. Signal levels at the spacecraft generally agree with predictions.*

## I. Introduction

This article summarizes the experiment requirements, design, operations, and results obtained in the Galileo Optical Experiment (GOPEX)[1], conducted by the U.S. Air Force Phillips Laboratory at the Starfire Optical Range (SOR) near Albuquerque, New Mexico. SOR was chosen by JPL, the sponsoring agency, as a second site to complement their operations at Table Mountain Facility (TMF), in Wrightwood, near Los Angeles, California, and to provide geographic diversity, increasing the probability of success in case of bad weather.

The primary objective of GOPEX was to demonstrate that a narrow laser beam pointed at the Galileo spacecraft as it receded from Earth could be detected by the on-board Solid-State Imaging (SSI) camera. This objective was indeed achieved at ranges of approximately 700,000 to six million km from Earth. SOR successfully illuminated the spacecraft on the first four nights of the test, but unfortunately bad weather at the site halted the experiment on

the last three nights. Site diversity proved to be advantageous in the experiment, since TMF was weathered out on the fourth night. A secondary objective was to measure the level and fluctuation in the laser irradiance at the spacecraft and compare the results with theoretical predictions. In general, this objective was also met with a high degree of success.

## II. Experiment Requirements

The TMF and SOR sites were each required to transmit bursts of laser pulses on a preset schedule. Each burst lasted approximately three seconds and was computed to start so that pulses arrived at the spacecraft centered about the camera's shutter opening. Individual laser pulses were synchronized within one millisecond of WWV time. Spacecraft-camera shutter-opening times varied from 133–800 msec on a preprogrammed schedule that operated from the internal clock, which was also synchronized with WWV time. The camera was programmed

to scan along a path parallel to the Earth's terminator to spatially separate individual laser pulses on the focal plane. TMF and SOR never operated at the same laser pulse rate, making it possible to uniquely determine each site by measuring the pixel spacing between laser pulse detections.

Uplink operations occurred just before dawn on December 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16, 1992. The uplink times put the SOR very close to the terminator. Table 1 lists for each experiment day the start and end times, the number of transmissions, and the time between transmissions. At a pulse rate of 10 pulses per second, 4710 pulses in total were scheduled to be transmitted toward the Galileo spacecraft from SOR.

The GOPEX Task Manager required that certain diagnostic information be recorded during the uplink transmissions. This information included the energy and pulse width of every laser pulse; the time, to the nearest millisecond, of every laser pulse transmitted; the telescope coordinates during every pulse transmitted; the position of the steering mirror (explained below); and the coherence diameter (Fried's parameter  $r_0$ ) of the atmosphere. The laser beam divergence at SOR was required to be 80  $\mu$ rad full-angle during the first four nights and 40  $\mu$ rad during the last three nights. SOR was required to develop an experimental technique for setting the full-angle beam divergence to better than  $\pm 10$  percent.

Navigational data for the spacecraft were given to SOR by JPL in terms of J2000 geocentric state vectors (position, velocity, and acceleration) and mean-of-date pointing predictions for SOR. The state vector data were converted to mean-of-date local mount coordinates by algorithms developed at SOR, and results were compared with JPL pointing predictions. In general, agreement was better than 2  $\mu$ rad. Consequently, the SOR algorithms were used to point the telescope since they continuously updated the mount pointing. The mount model was validated and occasionally updated by centering the image of a nearby guide star in the field of a CCD camera between propagations. SOR was required to develop a technique to boresight the laser to the CCD guide-star camera to within 5  $\mu$ rad. SOR was also required to demonstrate these capabilities during precursor tests using high-altitude Earth-orbiting artificial satellites during a dry run.

### III. Description of Experiment Hardware

#### A. General Layout

Figure 1 shows the overall arrangement of the experimental setup at SOR. The laser-transmitting aperture is

a 1.5-m (60-in.) Cassegrain telescope with a coudé path, mounted on elevation-over-azimuth gimbals set on an 8-m-tall hollow pier. The laser and tracking sensors are located in the coudé room on the ground floor of the facility. Three fiber-optic source simulators, located in the pier, are used to set the two values of the laser beam divergence and to represent a star at infinity. The source simulators can be moved into and out of the optical beam path to an angular accuracy of approximately 0.5  $\mu$ rad, as measured in the output space of the telescope.

#### B. Telescope and Optics

The 1.5-m telescope is a classical Cassegrain with a parabolic primary mirror and a hyperbolic secondary mirror. The primary mirror has a focal length of 2.2882 m. It is coated with aluminum and a protective silicon monoxide overcoat. The secondary mirror has a focal length of -0.1486 m and a conic constant of -1.028072. The output of the telescope is an f/217 beam, approximately 10 cm in diameter (an angular magnification of  $\sim 15$ ). The secondary mirror and all coudé mirrors are coated with Denton Vacuum enhanced silver FSS-99 coating.

Light from the telescope (or a laser beam projected by the telescope) is relayed through a coudé path in the center of the pier to the optics room, which is located on the first floor of the facility. Since the telescope is normally used with adaptive optics, the relay optics reimage the primary mirror of the telescope onto a deformable mirror located on the optics table in the coudé room. No adaptive optics were used in this experiment and the deformable mirror was kept in a "system-flat" mode which removed systematic optical aberrations (approximately 1/10 wave) in the system. Figure 2 shows the coudé path optics and M8, the first element in the imaging relay, a spherical mirror having a focal length of 6.21 m used at a 3.2-deg angle of incidence. This figure also shows the image plane for objects at infinity and the locations of the movable source simulators. Two of the simulators were used to set the beam divergence of the laser to either 80 or 40  $\mu$ rad, as described later. The simulator representing a source at infinity is at a location along the coudé path that produces the minimum wavefront curvature at the output of the wavefront sensor, as compared with a reference wavefront source located on the optics table. By definition, this sets the location of the infinity source simulator. During telescope operations, the secondary mirror position of the telescope is adjusted (while observing a star) to minimize wavefront curvature as reported by the wavefront sensor.

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram showing the layout of components on the optics table in the coudé room. The

diverging beam from the pier is recollimated by an 8.45-m focal length off-axis parabolic mirror, OAP#1. The beam then reflects from a fast-steering mirror onto the deformable mirror (which is preset with a static figure to remove small residual aberrations in the system). An 11.2-cm diameter image of the telescope's primary mirror is formed on the deformable mirror. Another off-axis paraboloid, OAP#2, and a lens reimage the deformable mirror on an array of lenslets in the Shack-Hartmann sensor. This sensor is used to set the 1.5-m telescope focus by observing a bright star just prior to operations.

The pulsed laser beam is injected into the coudé path by means of a thin-film plate polarizer located between OAP#2 and the recollimating lens. The total optical transmission from the output of the laser to the atmosphere is estimated to be  $43 \pm 3$  percent. Just prior to laser propagation, the telescope is pointed to a nearby guide star. Light from the guide star passes through the laser-aperture sharing element and is imaged onto a low-noise, high-resolution CCD camera to verify telescope pointing. This camera is the primary sensor for laser boresighting and telescope pointing.

The reference source for the wavefront sensor is placed at the focus of OAP#2, since this point is optically conjugate to infinity. The laser-aperture sharing element is located in the converging beam ahead of the infinity focus. Since the thin-film plate polarizer is used in a converging beam, a glass plate was placed behind it to compensate for the astigmatism in images of the guide star at the CCD camera and during telescope defocus measurements made with the wavefront sensor.

The fast-steering mirror was used to offset the laser pointing direction in a predetermined pattern to increase the probability of detection in the event that the navigation data were in error. The mirror was repositioned between laser pulses to generate either a hexagonal or square pattern, as shown in Fig. 4. These scan patterns were used only on the first night of operations. The scan patterns put the nominal position of the spacecraft in the edge of the beam.

### C. Optical Alignment

The basic optical alignment requirements for GOPEX were to (1) establish the optical axis of the system, (2) set the full-angle laser beam divergence to either 80 or 40  $\mu$ rad, and (3) accurately boresight the laser to the optical axis of the system.

The optical axis of the system was defined in tilt by the CCD guide-star camera and in translation by the cen-

ter of the entrance pupil of the telescope. The required laser beam divergence was generated by focusing the 1.5-m-diameter beam in the atmosphere at ranges of 18.75 and 37.5 km, respectively. These ranges can be simulated at the appropriate conjugate points in the path of the relay-imaging optics in the pier. Based on the optical design of the relay optics, these points are 64.14 cm and 32.703 cm below the location of the infinity focus where a fiber-optic star simulator is located on a stepper motor-driven stage. The laser beam will come to focus at these points in the coudé path when the divergence is properly adjusted. Furthermore, a source accurately positioned at these points is a fiducial for boresighting the laser to objects at infinity imaged on the optical axis of the telescope. Two 50- $\mu$ m-diameter optical fibers were placed on precision slide stages at these points. The arrangement of the source simulators is shown in Fig. 5. Light transmitted by the fiber was imaged by the CCD guide-star camera and allowed positioning of the stages to approximately 0.5  $\mu$ rad in the output space of the telescope. The vertical position of the fiber was measured mechanically with an uncertainty of  $\pm 5$  mm.

Beam divergence was set by using a knife-edge test on the focused beam and observing the pattern in the plane of the fiber. This technique produces no more than  $\pm 0.5$  wave of focus error. The telescope focus error is less than  $\pm 0.25$  wave, including higher order aberrations in the optical system between the star simulator and the telescope exit. Assuming worst-case additive errors, the divergence error is  $\pm 2.8$   $\mu$ rad or 6 percent at 40 and 3 percent at 80  $\mu$ rad full-angle beam divergence. Final beam boresighting was set by maximizing the light injected into the fiber from the focused laser beam. Beam motion of  $\pm 0.5$   $\mu$ rad completely extinguishes laser light coming out of the fiber. It was estimated that all error sources would make the worst-case boresight error  $\pm 1.75$   $\mu$ rad for the 40- $\mu$ rad beam-divergence case and  $\pm 2.25$   $\mu$ rad for the 80- $\mu$ rad beam-divergence case. The actual beam divergence was verified by scanning the beam across high-altitude Earth-orbiting satellites equipped with retro-reflectors.

### D. Laser Characteristics

The laser used for these experiments was a frequency-doubled neodymium:yttrium-aluminum-garnet (Nd:Yag), Spectra-Physics Quanta-Ray DCR-2A, field-modified to the equivalent of a DCR-3G. The laser was equipped with Spectra-Physics' unstable Gaussian Coupled Resonator using Radially Variable Reflectivity coatings. This resonator produces a beam profile shaped more like a "top hat" than gaussian. This feature makes it easier to relay

through the optics and produces a more uniform intensity pattern at long ranges. The measured intensity profile in a plane equivalent to approximately 700,000 km is shown in Fig. 6. The laser pulse width was 14.5 nsec (full-width half-maximum), and the energy per pulse was  $318 \pm 10$  mJ per pulse.

### E. Telescope Pointing

The two-axis mount of the 1.5-m telescope is controlled by a microcomputer that is designed to accept data on an object's position from imaging cameras or a track processor. The microcomputer is equipped with relatively simple, but very effective, algorithms that compute angular positions and rates of low and high Earth-orbiting artificial satellites, as well as astronomical objects. The computer code is able to modify in real time the orbital parameters of satellites based on measurements of the satellite's position by imaging cameras or trackers.

The routines for pointing the telescope at a selected guide star and the computed position of Galileo were automated in a script that was executed by the telescope control computer. Thirty seconds prior to propagation, the script automatically pointed the telescope to the computed position of Galileo, and ten seconds after the end of the propagation, it repositioned the telescope to the guide star. The position of the azimuth and elevation axes were recorded at the transmission time of each pulse.

### F. Laser Diagnostics

The laser pulse width and energy were monitored by a Hamamatsu vacuum photodiode,<sup>2</sup> calibrated against a thermopile radiometer. Light to the vacuum photodiode consisted of the leakage through a turning mirror in the laser-beam injection optics. The thermopile radiometer was placed in the unattenuated beam. The output of the vacuum photodiode was digitized by a 1-GHz sample-rate digital oscilloscope at 1-nsec intervals and saved to a computer file. The pulse width was then computed from the digital data and the pulse energy was computed from the integral under the power-versus-time plot generated by the oscilloscope. The time of the trace was tagged to an accuracy of one millisecond by reading a WWV clock.

### G. Communications and Data Transfer

Real-time communications between GOPEX control and SOR were via a dedicated phone line. A JPL representative was on-site to handle communications and monitor JPL control for permission to propagate, for unexpected

abort commands, and to report the status of each propagation to the GOPEX Task Manager. Backup communications consisted of telephones and fax machines over commercial phone lines.

Prior to operations and between experiment days, Galileo navigational data and position predictions were exchanged over the Internet between JPL and SOR computers. This computer network was also used to pass down-linked Galileo images from JPL to the SOR in near real time during operations.

### H. Atmospheric Data

Separate instruments were used to monitor the atmospheric conditions during operations. The measurements made included Fried's coherence length,  $r_0$ ; the isoplanatic angle,  $\theta_0$ ; and the atmospheric extinction using a lidar receiver to measure the strength of the atmospheric backscatter from each laser pulse. The coherence length and isoplanatic angle are measured by making modulation-transfer-function and scintillation measurements of light from a nearby bright star.

### I. Data Recorded

The data recorded during the operations included

- (1) The time of the laser pulse to the nearest millisecond.
- (2) Instantaneous laser power versus time digitized in 1-nsec bins.
- (3) The telescope's azimuth position.
- (4) The telescope's elevation position.
- (5) The scan mirror's position off boresite.
- (6) The value of  $r_0$ .
- (7) The value of  $\theta_0$ .
- (8) The lidar backscatter signal.

## IV. Precursor Tests

Several propagation tests were conducted prior to operations with Galileo. SOR used Lageos and the Etalon artificial satellites and observed the retro-reflected signal return with a photomultiplier. The objectives of these tests were to (1) verify laser beam divergence and bore-sighting, (2) verify proper operation of the fast-steering mirror to scan the beam, and (3) get a rough idea of the beam profile.

<sup>2</sup> Model number R1193U.

On the mornings of October 1 and 2, 1992, successful laser uplink tests to Etalon 2 (Cosmos 2024) were conducted using 80- and 40- $\mu$ rad full-angle beam divergences. Returned signals were detected by a photomultiplier and outputs were saved on a digital oscilloscope. The photomultiplier was calibrated to allow an estimate of the number of photons detected. The beam was scanned across the satellite to measure beam divergence and boresighting and get a rough idea of the beam profile. The returned signal of the 40- $\mu$ rad beam was, on average, 3.6 (versus an expected value of 4) times stronger than the 80- $\mu$ rad beam. This represents a combined beam divergence discrepancy of 5 percent, well within the  $\pm 10$ -percent requirement set by JPL.

The scintillation of the return signal was quite severe, varying more than an order of magnitude. Average returns were approximately 400 detected photons for a 300-mJ laser pulse. The data-recording equipment did not permit collecting the hundreds or thousands of detections required to amass adequate statistics on beam-profile mapping. However, when the beam was moved in 10- $\mu$ rad steps from boresight, one could easily see a sudden drop in the return signal to an undetectable level at the predicted position at the edge of the beam. Signal return was nearly constant over a 30- to 40- $\mu$ rad radius for the 80- $\mu$ rad beam and dropped precipitously below 40  $\mu$ rad until it was completely undetectable at a 50- $\mu$ rad radius. A bias of approximately 20  $\mu$ rad was observed along the track of the satellite, which was consistent with the expected point-ahead angle.

On the morning of October 2, 1992, a 40- $\mu$ rad beam was propagated to Etalon 2. The telescope had to be pointed 23  $\mu$ rad ahead of the apparent position on the CCD camera. Without point-ahead correction, no detected signal was seen (consistent with a 40- $\mu$ rad full-angle beam divergence). By moving the telescope 20  $\mu$ rad off-center and observing a complete loss of signal, it was further verified that the beam was not more than 40  $\mu$ rad in diameter. Also, the fast-steering mirror was implemented in a 20- $\mu$ rad square pattern, which demonstrated the expected effect of scanning the beam. When the beam was centered on the satellite, no periodic time variation was seen in the return signal (mentally averaging the scintillation). When the beam was not centered on the satellite, one could see a definite cyclic temporal pattern in the return signal, which indicated that the satellite was being hit on only one position of the scan.

Additional precursor tests were performed on the morning and evening of October 26 using Lageos and Etalon at the 80- $\mu$ rad beam divergence. Return signal levels were

approximately a factor of 25 times stronger from Lageos than Etalon, as expected from the difference in range to the satellites. The beam was step-scanned again with the fast-steering mirror to demonstrate the desired effect.

A full dress rehearsal was conducted on the morning of November 18. All communications circuits and procedures were effected as planned for actual GOPEX operations. The SOR Test Director conducted operations according to a timeline-based checklist. No major problems were encountered, and the checklist was executed well ahead of schedule. The telescope script worked flawlessly, and with the exception of one 4- $\mu$ rad correction, telescope-pointing corrections were unnecessary. The timing and the scan mirror scripts worked flawlessly. Laser alignment held throughout the test to better than 0.5  $\mu$ rad. Atmospheric data were collected, and the weather was perfect. The dress rehearsal resulted in a few minor changes to the checklist and improvements in communications with JPL operations.

## V. Galileo Operations

### A. Overview

The biggest problem at the SOR during Galileo operations was the weather. Of the seven test nights, it was reasonably clear on only one night (the second night). The site was fogged in during the mornings of the last three experiment days, preventing any propagations. Fog is *not* the norm for Albuquerque, a city that experienced more precipitation in December 1992 than in any December in the previous 100 years! At times researchers were propagating through cloud cover so heavy that the guide star was not visible on the CCD camera. Furthermore, on the first experiment day, the relative humidity was so high that to prevent condensation, between propagations a hand-held heat gun had to be used to blow warm air on the secondary mirror of the telescope. In the worst conditions, snow was falling or fog was condensing into snow and falling into the open dome.

Despite the bad weather, SOR successfully conducted operations on the first four experiment days. Table 2 summarizes SOR pulses detected by Galileo. These data, from an article by B. M. Levine, K. S. Shaik, and T.-Y. Yan of JPL summarize the analysis of the GOPEX images [2]. No pulses were detected by Galileo from TMF or SOR for camera-shutter opening times less than 400 msec. Furthermore, there were always fewer pulse detections than possible for shutter times of 400, 533, and 800 msec. One explanation is that the scan motion of the camera on Galileo was not perfectly synchronized with the shutter opening.

## B. Operations Procedures

Activities to prepare for, conduct, and assess the nightly operations were based on a test director's checklist and timeline designed to allow ample time to correct minor problems. Appendix A is a facsimile of the test director's checklist for day 344, the first test day.

In general, a test day involves facility preparation; equipment turn-on and warm-up; functional equipment checkout; computer disk-space and directory setup; optics and laser alignment; integrated system checkout; final preparations and double checks; conducting the experiment; postexperiment debriefing; data quick-look; and identification of problems to be fixed. Many of the details of these tasks can be gleaned from the timeline in Appendix A.

## C. The First Test Day, December 9, 1992

Sixty propagation sequences were planned for the first test day. The first propagation was at 11:13:35 UTC and every three minutes thereafter until 14:12:32 UTC. Thirty pulses were transmitted during each sequence. On many of these sequences, the fast-steering mirror was stepped between pulses to generate one of the two patterns shown in Fig. 4.

Appendix B contains a sample of the summary of the propagation sequences, two graphs showing plots of each pulse in each propagation sequence of the measured pulse energies and pulse widths, and a sample output from a spreadsheet summarizing the laser diagnostic and telescope-pointing data for each pulse transmitted.

The propagation sequence summary that appears in Appendix B also lists the sequence number; the day number; the time of the first pulse, to the nearest millisecond; a propagation-time correction offset, if needed; the Galileo shutter time; the number of shots in a repeating sequence with no scan-mirror offset; the number of shots in a sequence at some offset radius; the radius size; and comments made during operations after each propagation sequence.

Appendix C contains plots of environmental conditions recorded at the site during Galileo operations. The weather was generally not good the first night. It had been cold (a few degrees above freezing) and rainy all day. After sunset, massive fog set in and in the early part of the evening the relative humidity was nearly 100 percent. It was not possible to open the facility for temperature conditioning, as scheduled, due to the high humidity. At around 08:30 UTC, the sky began to clear and the wind

picked up, blowing low-lying clouds to the southeast. However, the sky was too cloudy to permit using a star to set the focus of the telescope with the wavefront sensor. It was necessary to focus the telescope just before the first propagation, based on previous experience and the best image at the guide-star CCD camera. During the propagation sequences, the relative humidity averaged 82 percent. Between propagations, a person (standing atop a stepladder in the dark) directed warm air over the secondary with a hand-held heat gun in order to prevent condensation on the secondary mirror's surface. The temperature plot of the secondary mirror in Appendix C (the plot for temperature sensor TS037, December 9, 1992) shows this process. The data in Appendix C also show that the temperature in the pier (sensor TS030 at the source simulators) averaged a little over 13 deg C, while the outside temperature (sensor TS006) was approximately -1.5 deg C, a very large gradient indeed. These large temperature variations had an unknown, but certainly degrading, effect on the optical quality of the transmitted beam. It was not possible to make any  $r_0$  or  $\theta_0$  measurements on the first night due to equipment malfunction.

B. M. Levine, of JPL's Optical Sciences and Applications Section, has analyzed the images from Galileo to determine which frames show detections and to measure their strength with respect to the background. He reports that Galileo detected pulses from SOR on propagation sequences 1, 13, 16, 17, 20, 28, and 32.<sup>3</sup> Note from the comments in the propagation sequence table in Appendix B that the cloud cover was so thick that it was not possible to see the guide star between sequences 4 and 12. The scan mirror was on during sequences 16, 20, 28, and 32, and off during the other sequences. A summary appears in Table 3. The signal levels reported by JPL are included in this table. The average signal from TMF was data number (dn) 199.8, a value comparable to dn 173.8 from SOR. The high standard deviation (dn 212.2) of the signal variability could be due to the fact that most of the pulses were transmitted while the beam was being scanned.

## D. The Second Test Day, December 10, 1992

This was the best test day at the SOR. The sky was nearly clear except for a very thin subvisible cirrus cloud layer at the 17.5-km range, which was present during the first 19 or 20 propagations. The relative humidity was still much higher than normal, averaging nearly 70 percent during the propagations. Generally, everything worked per-

<sup>3</sup> B. M. Levine, private communication, Optical Sciences and Applications Section, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, December 22, 1992, updated by further private communication.

fectly on this night. Every pulse was transmitted, and atmospheric data were collected for every laser transmission.

Table 4 summarizes the pulse detections by Galileo. There were 37 detections with the average signal dn 143, a factor of more than three times higher than the average signal from TMF. The standard deviation was dn 187 and the maximum signal was dn 354. The laser energy was a bit higher, on average, for this day, and the sky was generally clear although not a "photometric night." The atmospheric seeing was not exceptional, in fact it was less than average for this site.

#### **E. The Third Test Day, December 11, 1992**

The weather was again a problem on the third night. The first 11 propagations were into very heavy clouds, and in most cases it was not possible to see the guide star. At propagation sequence number 12, the clouds thinned enough for a detection by Galileo. Detections were also made on sequences 16 and 20, which were the only other shutter openings of 533 msec. The very last propagation was into a fairly clear sky.

Table 5 summarizes the pulse detections for test day 3. Only 11 pulses from SOR were detected. The average signal level was dn 66.0 (compared with dn 54.5 from TMF). Five pulses were detected on the last sequence when the weather was clearest.

#### **F. The Fourth Test Day, December 12, 1992**

The cloud cover was variable on the fourth night. Only 10 propagation sequences were conducted. Only three of the sequences were 533 msec. The sky was clear on the first few propagations but became very cloudy after the sixth propagation.

Table 6 summarizes the detections by Galileo on frames 3 and 6. Only 5 pulses were detected. The average signal level was dn 33.6. No TMF data are available for comparison since the facility was weathered out completely on that night.

#### **G. The Last Three Nights, December 14–16, 1992**

There is nothing to report for these nights since SOR was completely fogged in on all three nights. The last recorded fog in December in Albuquerque occurred in 1937.

### **VI. Conclusions**

GOPEX was a major success, with 268 pulse detections from TMF on six nights at 15 and 30 Hz, and 76 pulse detections from SOR on four nights at 10 Hz. The signal levels were close to those expected.

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## References

- [1] K. E. Wilson and J. R. Lesh, "An Overview of the Galileo Optical Experiment (GOPEX)," *The Telecommunications and Data Acquisition Progress Report 42-114*, vol. April-June 1993, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, pp. 192-204, August 15, 1993.
- [2] B. M. Levine, K. S. Shaik, and T.-Y. Yan, "Data Analysis for GOPEX Image Frames," *The Telecommunications and Data Acquisition Progress Report 42-114*, vol. April-June 1993, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, pp. 213-229, August 15, 1993.



**Table 1. GOPEX operations schedule.**

Test day, December 1992	Start time, UTC	End time, UTC	Number of transmissions	Time between transmissions, min
9	11:13:35	14:12:32	60	3
10	11:06:21	13:04:38	40	3
11	11:10:06	12:07:44	20	3
12	10:25:24	11:19:59	10	6
14	10:42:08	11:37:45	12	5
15	10:39:54	11:25:24	10	5
16	10:39:41	11:15:04	8	5

**Table 2. SOR pulses detected by Galileo.**

Test day, day of year	Number of pulses detected
1, 344	16
2, 345	43
3, 346	12
4, 347	5
5, 349	No propagations due to fog
6, 350	No propagations due to fog
7, 351	No propagations due to fog

**Table 3. Results for the first test day, day 344, December 9, 1992.**

Propagation sequence	Sky condition	$r_0$ , cm	$\theta_0$ , $\mu$ rad	Atmospheric transmission from lidar data	Average energy per pulse, mJ	Beam scan radius, $\mu$ rad	Galileo shutter time, msec	Number of pulses detected
1	Partly cloudy	No data	No data	0.77	310	0	400	1
13	Cloudy	No data	No data	0.92	312	0	400	2
16	Partly cloudy	No data	No data	0.81	312	60	800	4
17	Partly cloudy	No data	No data	0.80	315	0	400	2
20	Mostly cloudy	No data	No data	0.94	311	60	800	3
28	Good	No data	No data	0.80	315	30	400	1
32	Clear	No data	No data		317	30	400	1
Total number of detections		14						
Minimum dn		10						
Maximum dn		631						
Average dn		173.8						
Standard deviation dn		212.2						

**Table 4. Results for the second test day, day 345, December 10, 1992.**

Propagation sequence	Sky condition	$r_0$ , cm	$\theta_0$ , $\mu$ rad	Atmospheric transmission from lidar data	Average energy per pulse, mJ	Beam scan radius, $\mu$ rad	Galileo shutter time, msec	Number of pulses detected
4	Subvisible cirrus	6.45	7.52	0.67	342	0	800	3
5	Subvisible cirrus	6.77	9.16	0.69	340	0	533	2
6	Subvisible cirrus	6.45	9.59	0.71	342	0	533	2
8	Subvisible cirrus	7.21	8.25	0.74	337	0	800	5
9	Subvisible cirrus	7.55	8.88	0.76	336	0	533	2
10	Subvisible cirrus	6.45	7.45	0.79	337	0	533	2
12	Subvisible cirrus	4.43	8.49	0.78	337	0	800	4
13	Subvisible cirrus	4.07	7.58	0.76	338	0	533	2
14	Subvisible cirrus	4.74	8.93	0.75	337	0	533	2
16	Subvisible cirrus	6.48	6.76	0.76	338	0	800	5
17	Subvisible cirrus	5.06	5.81	0.77	336	0	533	2
18	Subvisible cirrus	4.96	6.64	0.76	338	0	533	1
20	Clear	6.75	8.06	0.78	337	0	800	2
28	Clear	5.73	5.62	0.80	338	0	533	1
32	Clear	6.32	8.92	0.79	336	0	533	2
Total number of detections		37						
Minimum dn		14						
Maximum dn		354						
Average dn		143						
Standard deviation dn		187						

**Table 5. Results for the third test day, day 346, December 11, 1992.**

Propagation sequence	Sky condition	$r_0$ , cm	$\theta_0$ , $\mu$ rad	Atmospheric transmission from lidar data	Average energy per pulse, mJ	Beam scan radius, $\mu$ rad	Galileo shutter time, msec	Number of pulses detected
12	Clouds	No data	No data	0.75	327	0	400	4
16	Very thick clouds	No data	No data	0.76	328	0	400	2
20	Fairly clear	9.18	4.67	0.75	327	60	800	5
Total number of detections		11						
Minimum dn		14						
Maximum dn		292						
Average dn		66						
Standard deviation dn		76						

**Table 6. Results for the fourth test day, day 347, December 12, 1992.**

Propagation sequence	Sky condition	$r_0$ , cm	$\theta_0$ , $\mu$ rad	Atmospheric transmission from lidar data	Average energy per pulse, mJ	Beam scan radius, $\mu$ rad	Galileo shutter time, msec	Number of pulses detected
3	Clear	Est. 7.5	Est. 5.0	0.69	299	0	533	2
6	Very thick clouds	Est. 7.5	Est. 5.0	0.59	295	0	533	3
Total number of detections		5						
Minimum dn		6						
Maximum dn		81						
Average dn		33.6						
Standard deviation dn		30.1						

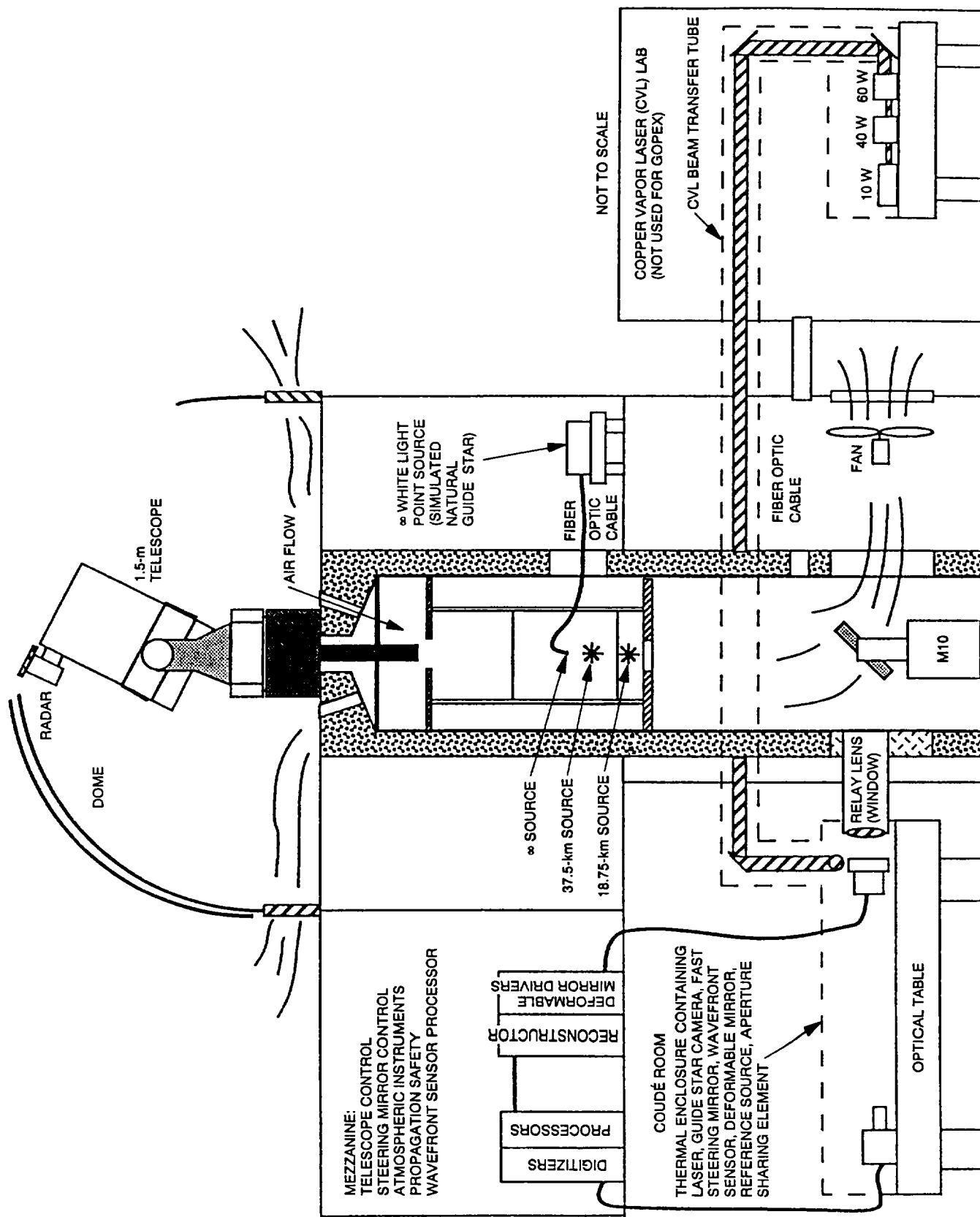
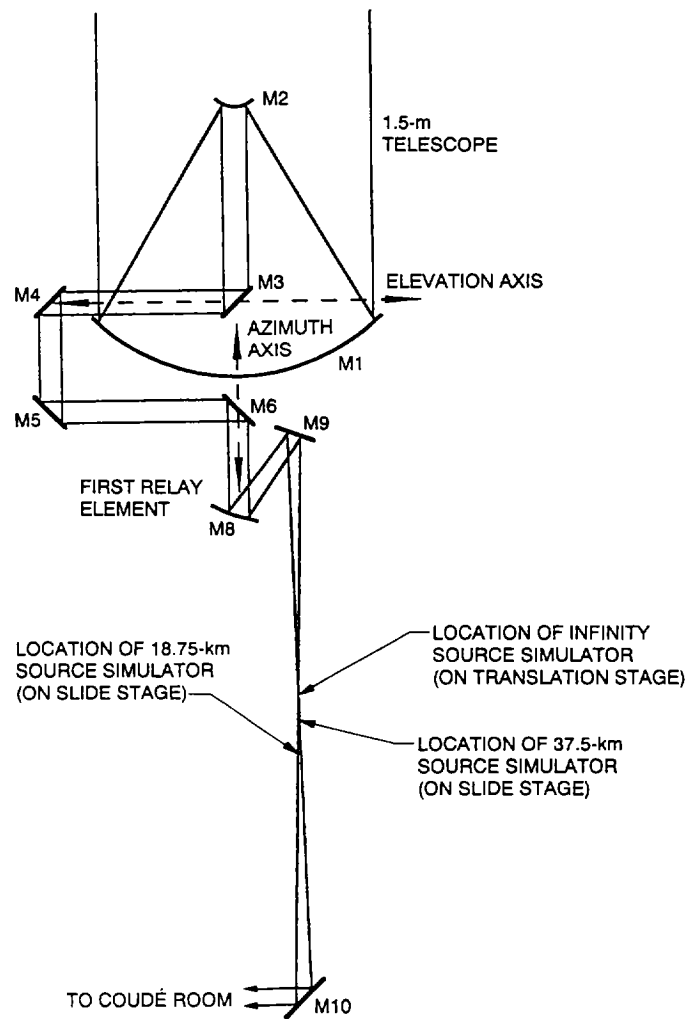


Fig. 1. Starfire Optical Range 1.5-m telescope facility.



**Fig. 2. Coudé path relay optics and source simulators for GOPEX.**

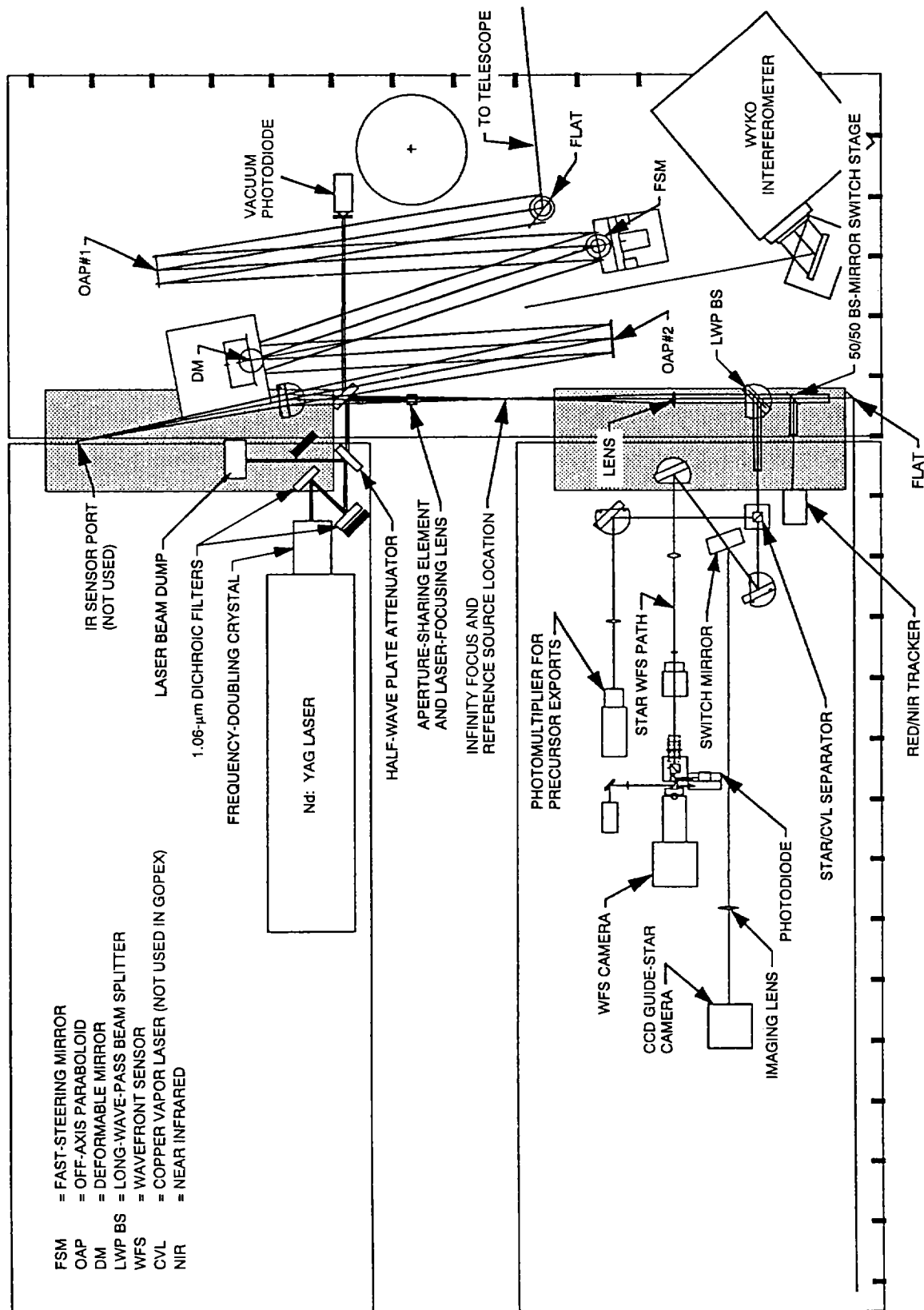


Fig. 3. Coudé room optics layout at SOR, as configured for GOPEX.

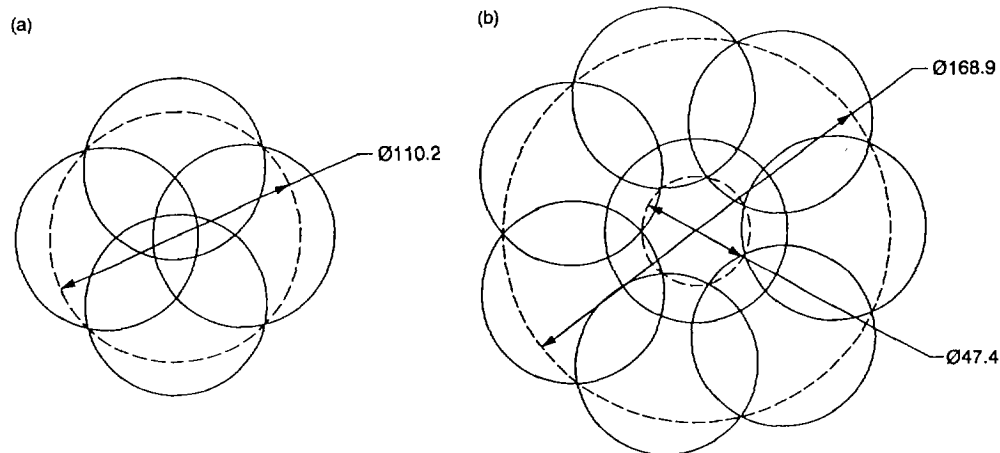


Fig. 4. GOPEX scan patterns used during the first test night, with an  $80\text{-}\mu\text{rad}$  beam divergence: (a) 4-pulse mode, no pulse on center,  $30\text{-}\mu\text{rad}$  offset and (b) 8-pulse mode, 1 pulse on center, 7 pulses at  $60\text{-}\mu\text{rad}$  offset.

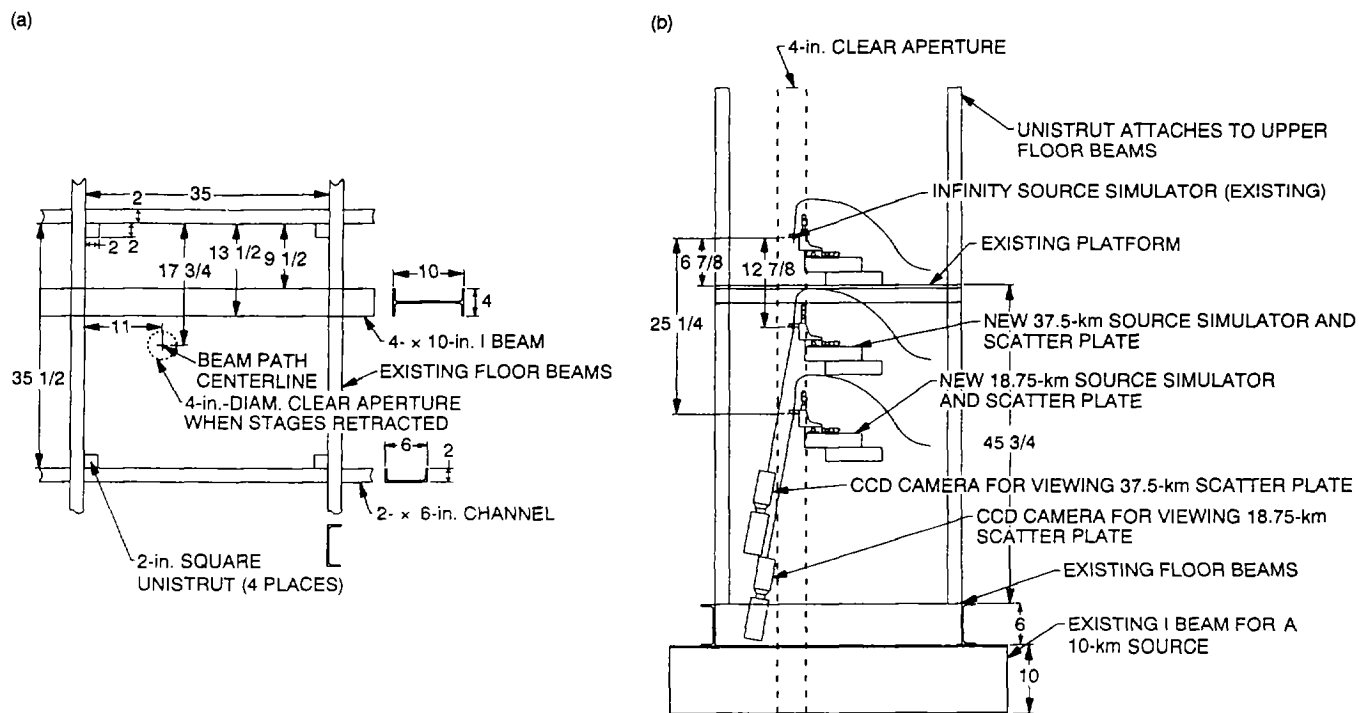
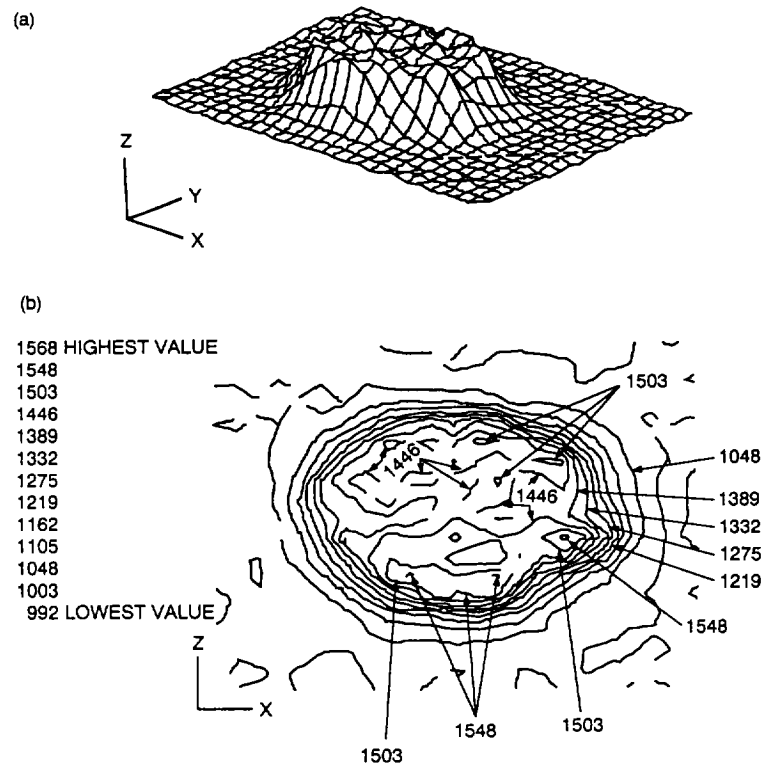


Fig. 5. 1.5-m pier area showing locations of new source simulators for GOPEX: (a) Top view and (b) side view.



**Fig. 6. Laser beam profile measured 127 cm in front of the laser. The beam is round, the distortion is due to the printer: (a) 3-D profile and (b) contour plot.**



## **Appendix A**

### **Test Director's Checklist**

An example of the test director's checklist is shown on the following pages.

GOPEX at SOR						
Test Director's Check List						
Assigned Facility Operator (FO)	Fred Gallegos					
Test Day	344					
Beam Divergence	80					
First Propagation	11:13:34					
	Back-up people present					
Test Director	✓	Bob Fugate				
JPL Representative	✓	Hamid Hemmati				
Facility operator	✓	Fred Gallegos				
Spotter 1	✓	Curt Batcheller				
Spotter 2	✓	Steve Torney				
Safety Officer	✓	Joe Lange				
Telescope Operator	✓	Rick Cels				
Uder Operator	✓	Phil Leatherman				
r0 Operator	✓	Carolyn Morgenstern				
Wavefront Sensor Operator	✓	Dave Swindle				
Photometrics Operator	✓	Gary Jones				
Optics and Laser Operator	✓	Jim Spinhirne				
Laser Diagnostics Operator	✓	Bruce Boeke				
Laser Maintenance	✓	Paul Stech				
Data Reduction	✓	Mike Ollker				
		Scheduled	To be	Completed	Actual	
Task	T-time	time (UTC)	completed	by	Completion	Comments
FACILITY PREPARATION						
Open domes	8:00	3:13	FO			Delayed due to FOG/High Humidity
Open dome shutters	7:45	3:28	FO			Delayed due to FOG
Uncover 1.5 m tele	7:40	3:33	FO			Delayed " " "
Uncover r0 tele	7:35	3:38	FO			Delayed
Turn on pier fan	7:30	3:43	FO			Delayed
Record site temps	7:25	3:48	FO	RQF	03:50	
Record wind data	7:20	3:53	FO	RQF	03:50	
Record RH data	7:15	3:58	FO	RQF	03:50	
Check all sky camera	7:10	4:03	FO	RQF	03:55	
Turn on WEFAX	7:05	4:08	FO	RQF	03:30	Turn on early for pics/prognosis
Turn on telescope control computer	7:30	3:43	WJL		04:15	Delayed
Turn on 1.5 m tele control console	7:20	3:53	WJL		05:20	Delayed
Turn on safety officer's console	7:10	4:03	WJL		04:15	Delayed
Turn on aircraft detection radar	7:05	4:08	WJL			Delayed
Perform radar check	7:00	4:13	WJL			Delayed
Pre-test Briefing	6:30	4:43	RF	RQF	05:20	Bruce Boeke absent
EQUIPMENT TURN-ON						
Spotter comm and kill switch	6:00	5:13	TEAM			
r0 telescope and control computer	6:00	5:13	OB	WJL	05:21	
r0 instrumentation computer	6:00	5:13	OM			
LIDAR receiver electronics	6:00	5:13	PL	PL	05:25	
Annotation computer	6:00	5:13	RAC	—	already on	
Wavefront sensor camera and cooler	6:00	5:13	MOO	DWS	05:20	
Wavefront sensor control computer	6:55	5:18	MOO	DWS	05:20	
Real time digital reconstructor	6:50	5:23	MOO	DWS	05:30	
Digital reconstructor control computer	6:45	5:28	MOO	DWS	05:32	
Digital reconstructor diagnostic computers	6:38	5:35	MOO	DWS	05:35	
Photometrics camera and cooler	6:00	6:13	GJ	GJ	05:125	
Photometrics control computer	6:50	5:23	GJ	GJ	05:26	
Tilt mirror power supply and electronics	6:40	5:33	RAC	RAC	05:20	
Timing and tilt mirror control computer	6:35	5:38	RAC	RAC	05:22	
Tracker electronics	6:28	5:45	RAC	RAC	05:22	
Vacuum photodiode high voltage power supply	6:00	5:13	BRB	BRB	05:40	
Digital oscilloscope for pulse monitoring	6:55	5:18	BRB	BRB	05:40	
Laser diagnostics computer	6:50	5:23	BRB	BRB	05:40	
Laser water chiller and heat exchanger	6:00	5:13	RER	RER	05:50	
Laser power supply and control electronics	6:50	5:23	RER	RER	05:50	
FUNCTIONAL EQUIPMENT CHECK						
CB (spotter equipment)	6:30	5:43	RF	RQF	05:35	
WJL (all safety equipment)	6:28	5:45	RF	RQF	05:40	
CM (r0 instrumentation)	6:26	5:47	RF	RQF	X	Delayed due to WX - A/D Failure
PL (LIDAR electronics)	6:25	5:48	RF	RQF	X	Delayed " " " - No precheck possible
MOO (wavefront sensor and reconstructor)	6:24	5:49	RF	DWS	05:40	
GJ (photometrics camera)	6:22	5:51	RF	RQF	06:00	
BRB (laser diagnostic equipment)	6:20	5:53	RF	RQF	06:15	
RAC (telescope and control electronics)	6:15	5:58	RF	RQF	05:50	
RAC (tilt mirror and laser timing)	6:10	6:03	RF	RQF	05:20	
RER (laser and cooling equipment)	6:05	6:08	RF	RQF	06:10	
FO (met equipment)	6:03	6:10	RF	RQF	06:05	
Load pointing files	6:00	6:13	RAC	RQF	02:10	

Fig. A-1. Test director's checklist for GOPEX, day 344, December 9, 1992.

Load timing files	4:45	6:28	RAC	RAC	02:10	
Generate timing scripts (only for new data)	5:00	6:13	RF	RQF	02:00	No new data today
Validate pointing and timing files	4:30	6:43	RAC	RAC	02:00	
<b>SET-UP DISK SPACE ON COMPUTERS</b>						
Telescope control computer	4:15	6:58	RAC	RAC	05:30	
Timing and tilt mirror control computer	4:15	6:58	RAC	JMS	05:30	
Photometrics control computer	4:15	6:58	GJ	GJ	06:10	150 MB available.
Laser diagnostic computer	4:15	6:58	BFB	BFB	06:20	
Wavefront sensor control computer	4:15	6:58	MDO	MDO	06:20	
ro instrumentation computer	4:15	6:58	CM	X	X	Delayed, - r/d Failure
LIDAR digital oscilloscope and computer	4:15	6:58	PL	PL	06:20	BMB available (29K x 60 needed)
<b>PREPARE OPTICS AND LASER</b>						
Check alignment of M4 source simulator	5:30	5:43	JMS	JMS	06:47	
Check alignment of Infinity source simulator	5:00	6:13	JMS	A	06:40	
Check pupil centration	4:45	6:28	JMS			
Check alignment of photometrics camera	4:00	7:13	JMS			
Check boresight of 18.75 km source sim	3:30	7:43	JMS			
Check and adjust laser boresight and cen.	3:15	7:58	JMS			
Check and adjust laser focus	3:30	7:43	JMS			
Calibrate pulse width and energy monitor	3:00	8:13	BFB, RF	BFB	06:40	
Set telescope focus using wavefront sensor	4:00	7:13	MDO		X	Not time due to w/x
Perform integrated system checkout	2:00	9:13	RF	RQF	10:45	Delayed due to high humidity
Proof read pointing and timing scripts	1:00	10:13	RF, RAC	RQF, RAC	02:30	
Perform final system readiness check	0:45	10:28	RF		10:50	
Perform final laser boresight and focus	0:40	10:33	JMS	JMS	10:48	
Remove 18.75 km source simulator	0:35	10:38	JMS	JMS	10:53	
Adjust half wave plate for max output	0:33	10:40	JMS	JMS	10:54	
Laser flashlamps to full power	0:30	10:43	JMS	JMS	10:13	part of system check
Start telescope control script	0:30	10:43	RAC	RAC	10:11	
Start timing control script	0:28	10:45	RAC	RAC	10:11	
Send photometrics images to telescope oper	0:25	10:48	GJ	RAC	10:50	
Start laser diagnostic computer program	0:30	10:43	BFB	RAC	10:11	
Verify all systems operational	0:20	10:53	team		10:55	
<b>CONDUCT EXPERIMENT</b>						
Check for GO/NO-GO comm	0:03	11:10	HH		✓	
Monitor and check propagation times	0:00	11:13	RF		✓	
Monitor comm lines for NO-GO command	0:00	11:13	HH		✓	
Monitor and record anomalies in scripts	0:00	11:13	TEAM		✓	
Record photometrics images	0:00	11:13	GJ		✓	
Record quad video of laser and photometrics	0:00	11:13	WUL		✓	
Last propagation		14:13			✓	
<b>NOTES:</b>						
(1) NOT ABLE to adjust Telescope focus using WFS - Focus set to best photometry image						
(2) Used a heat gun to blow warm air across secondary mirror between propagations						
At as long as 1/2 sec between secondary mirror Temp and dew point were recorded.						
<b>POST MISSION MAINTENANCE</b>						
Calibrate pulse width and energy monitor	0:05	14:18	BFB	BFB	14:20	
Measure laser boresight and focus	0:10	14:23	JMS	JMS	14:25	~1 μrad max
Measure alignment of photometrics and sim	0:20	14:33	JMS	JMS	14:30	< 1/2 μrad
Consolidate and back-up data files	0:05	14:18	MDO	MDO	15:00	
Post experiment de-briefing	0:30	14:43	RF	RQF	15:00	
Identify problems to be fixed	1:00	15:13	RF	RQF	15:10	RF A/D board, Q-switch gated
Institute configuration control	1:00	15:13	RF	RQF	15:15	
Generate quick look summary, fax to JPL	1:30	15:43	RF	RQF	17:00	
Generate database summary	5:00	19:13	MDO	MDO	22:00	36 pages of spreadsheet.

Fig. A-1. (contd)

## Appendix B

### Day 344, December 9, 1992

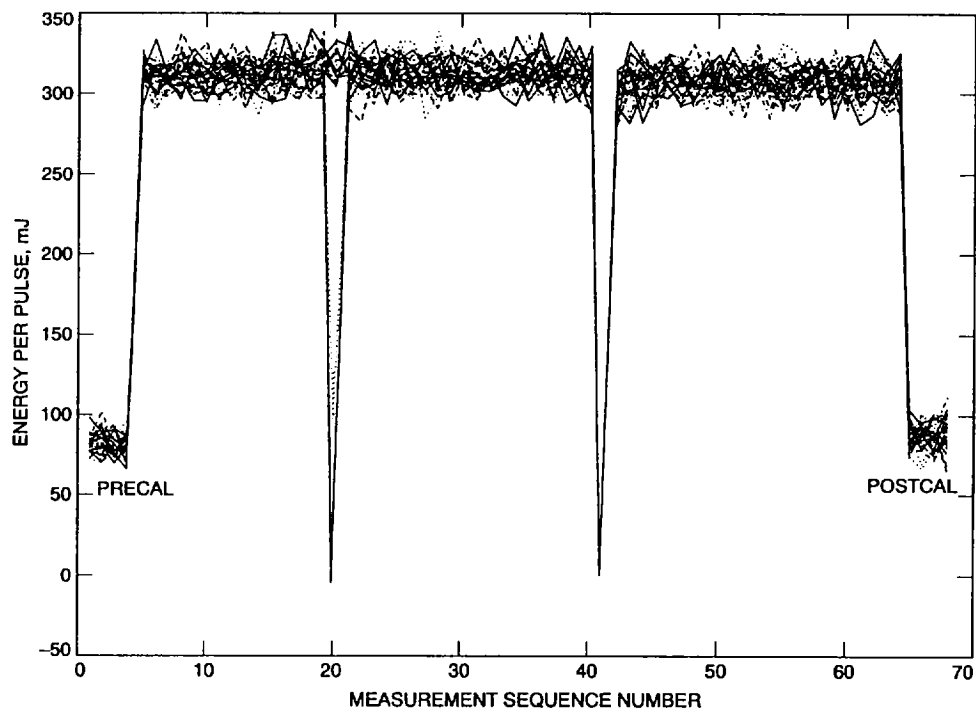
This section contains summaries of the Galileo operations activities for day 344, the first test day.

6	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
7	seq						prop	GLI				
8	number	day	hr	min	sec	ms	correct	shutter	#center	#radius	radius	Comments
9								time	shots	shots	size	
10												
11	001	344	11	13	35	264	0	400	4	0	0	Partly cloudy
12	002	344	11	16	37	259	0	400	0	4	30	No transmission
13	003	344	11	19	39	154	0	200	2	0	0	cloudy
14	004	344	11	22	41	449	0	800	1	7	60	Very cloudy - super dense, cannot see the guide star
15	005	344	11	25	43	242	0	400	4	0	0	same
16	006	344	11	28	45	237	0	400	0	4	30	same
17	007	344	11	31	47	131	0	200	2	0	0	same
18	008	344	11	34	49	426	0	800	1	7	60	same
19	009	344	11	37	51	221	0	400	4	0	0	same
20	010	344	11	40	53	215	0	400	0	4	30	same
21	011	344	11	43	55	110	0	200	2	0	0	same
22	012	344	11	46	57	405	0	800	1	7	60	same
23	013	344	11	49	59	200	0	400	4	0	0	cloudy
24	014	344	11	53	01	193	0	400	0	4	30	clearing
25	015	344	11	56	03	088	0	200	2	0	0	clearing
26	016	344	11	59	05	382	0	800	1	7	60	partly cloudy - but aborted part way through
27	017	344	12	02	07	177	0	400	4	0	0	partly cloudy
28	018	344	12	05	09	172	0	400	0	4	30	good
29	019	344	12	08	11	067	0	200	2	0	0	partly cloudy
30	020	344	12	11	13	361	0	800	1	7	60	mostly cloudy
31	021	344	12	14	15	056	0	200	2	0	0	mostly cloudy, can see the guide star
32	022	344	12	17	17	050	0	200	2	0	0	partly cloudy
33	023	344	12	20	19	011	0	133	1	0	0	partly cloudy
34	024	344	12	23	21	138	0	400	0	4	30	partly cloudy
35	025	344	12	26	23	033	0	200	2	0	0	partly cloudy
36	026	344	12	29	25	028	0	200	2	0	0	good
37	027	344	12	32	26	089	0	133	1	0	0	good
38	028	344	12	35	29	117	0	400	0	4	30	good
39	029	344	12	38	31	012	0	200	2	0	0	good
40	030	344	12	41	33	007	0	200	2	0	0	good
41	031	344	12	44	34	086	0	133	1	0	0	cloudy - no guide star
42	032	344	12	47	37	095	0	400	0	4	30	clear
43	033	344	12	50	38	990	0	200	2	0	0	partly cloudy
44	034	344	12	53	40	084	0	200	2	0	0	clear

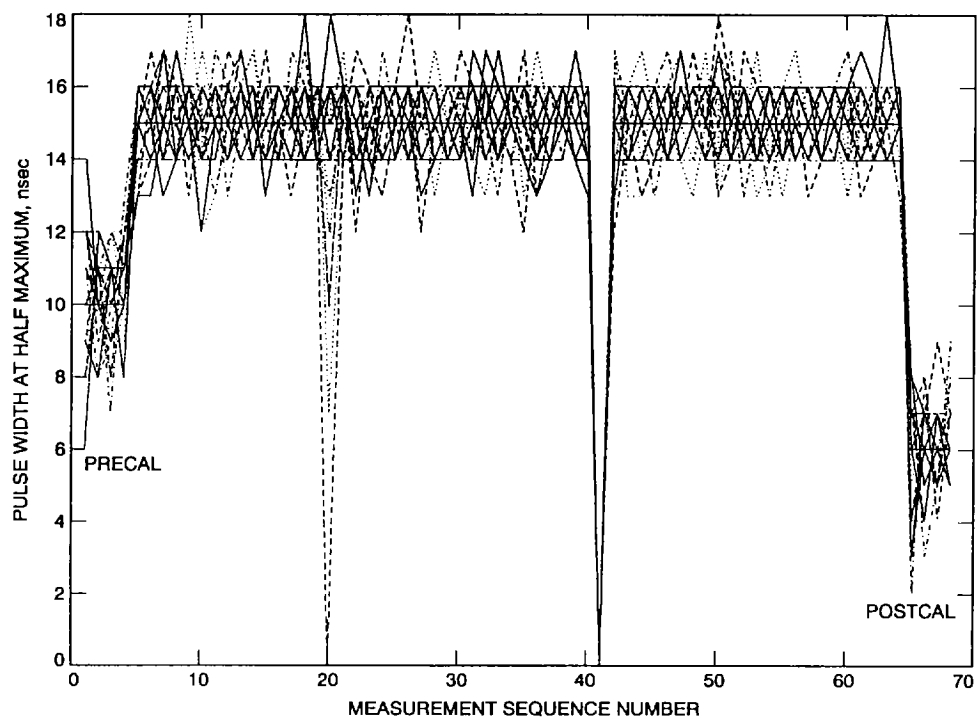
  

45	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
45	035	344	12	56	42	945	0	133	1	0	0	partly cloudy
46	036	344	12	59	45	074	0	400	0	4	30	partly cloudy - beam was on late
47	037	344	13	02	48	067	0	200	2	0	0	no transmission due to technical difficulties
48	038	344	13	05	48	082	0	200	2	0	0	partly cloudy
49	039	344	13	08	50	024	0	133	1	0	0	partly cloudy
50	040	344	13	11	53	050	0	400	0	4	30	partly cloudy
51	041	344	13	14	54	045	0	200	2	0	0	very cloudy
52	042	344	13	17	56	040	0	200	2	0	0	very cloudy
53	043	344	13	20	58	901	0	133	1	0	0	very cloudy
54	044	344	13	24	01	029	0	400	0	4	30	very cloudy
55	045	344	13	27	02	923	0	200	2	0	0	semi clear
56	046	344	13	30	04	018	0	200	2	0	0	clear - stopped scanning starting with this sequence
57	047	344	13	33	06	879	0	133	1	0	0	semi clear
58	048	344	13	36	09	006	0	400	0	4	30	clearing
59	049	344	13	39	10	901	0	200	2	0	0	clearing but getting very light - think clearing delayed by 2 seconds not 1 sec asked for
60	050	344	13	42	12	896	0	200	2	0	0	clearing - propagation two seconds later than time at left
61	051	344	13	45	14	856	0	133	1	0	0	clearing - propagation 1 sec later than time at left
62	052	344	13	48	16	084	0	400	0	4	30	clear - all propagations from here on are one second later than published times at left
63	053	344	13	51	18	879	0	200	2	0	0	clear
64	054	344	13	54	20	873	0	200	2	0	0	clear
65	055	344	13	57	22	835	0	133	1	0	0	clear
66	056	344	14	00	24	062	0	400	0	4	30	clear
67	057	344	14	03	26	856	0	200	2	0	0	clear
68	058	344	14	06	28	851	0	200	2	0	0	clear
69	059	344	14	09	30	812	0	133	1	0	0	clear
70	060	344	14	12	32	940	0	400	0	4	30	clear

Fig. B-1. Propagation sequences for GOPEX, day 344, December 9, 1992.



**Fig. B-2. Plot of measured energy per pulse for each propagation sequence and for pre-calibration and postcalibration runs at lower power. The graph contains 30 points for each propagation sequence, corresponding to the 30 pulses propagated during each sequence. The atmospheric transmission sequences start at sequence number 5 and end at number 65. The drop-outs at number 20 and at number 41 were caused by laser Q-switch problems.**



**Fig. B-3.** Plot of measured full-width half-maximum laser pulse widths for each of the atmospheric propagation sequences (numbers 5 through 65) and during pre- and postcalibration of the laser calorimeter (numbers 1-5 and 65-68). Thirty measurements (corresponding to 30 pulses) are plotted for each propagation sequence.

[illegible]

## Appendix C

Sample of environmental data collected during transmissions.

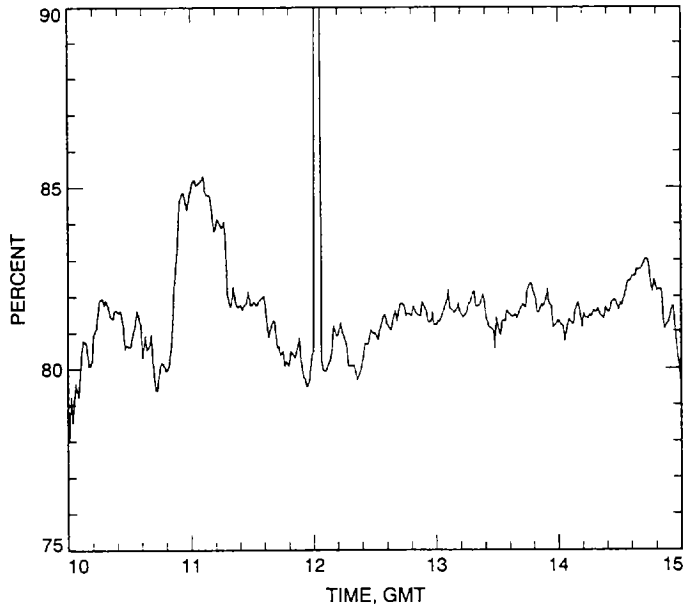


Fig. C-1. Computed relative humidity, day 344, December 9, 1992.

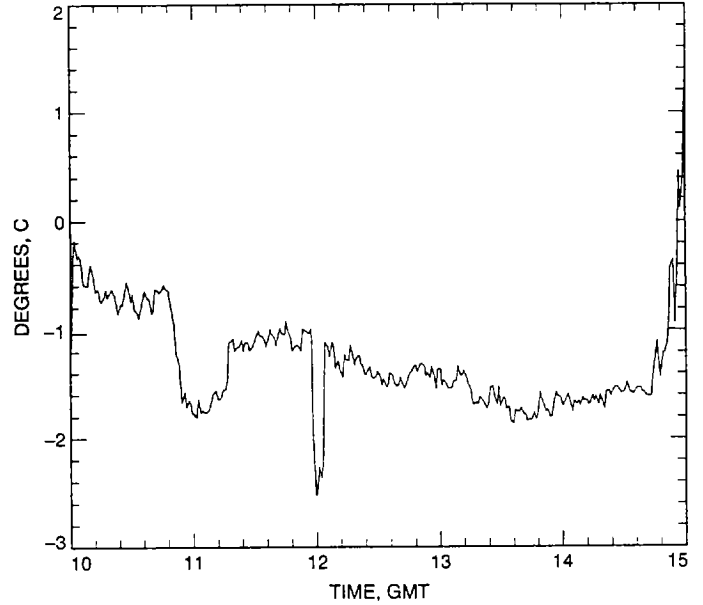


Fig. C-3. Ambient air temperature, Tower Number 1, day 344, December 9, 1992.

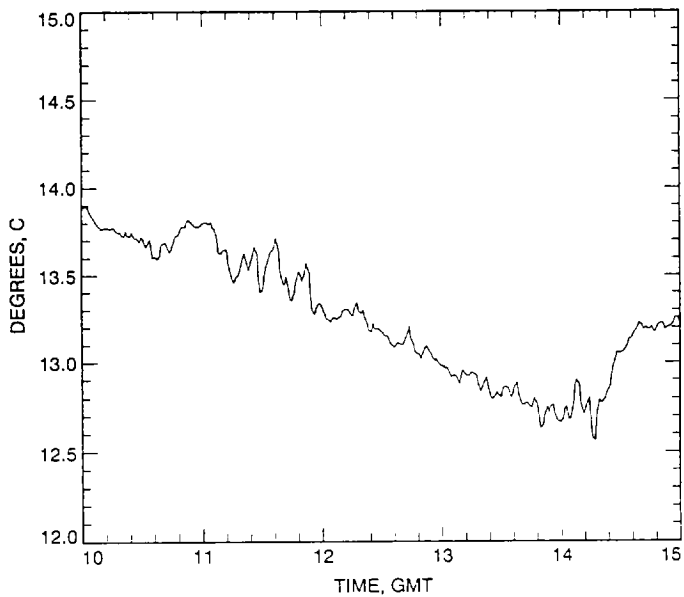


Fig. C-2. Optical path air temperature at the (source simulator) (see Fig. 2), day 344, December 9, 1992.

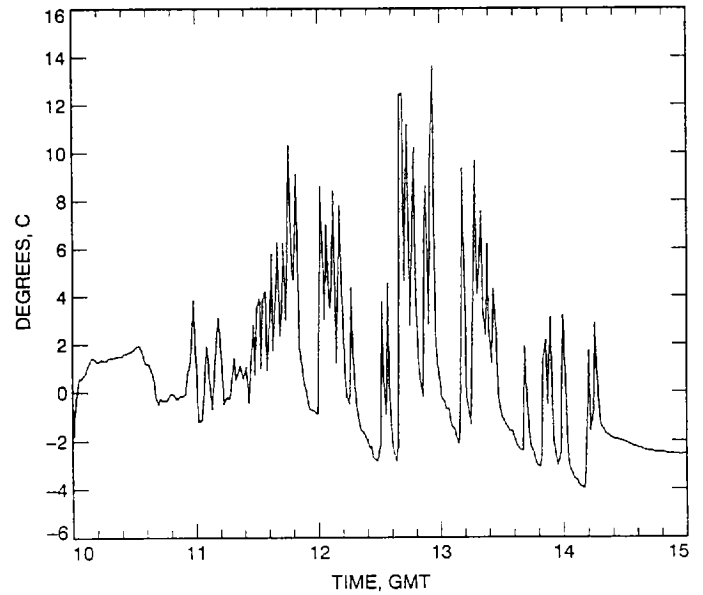
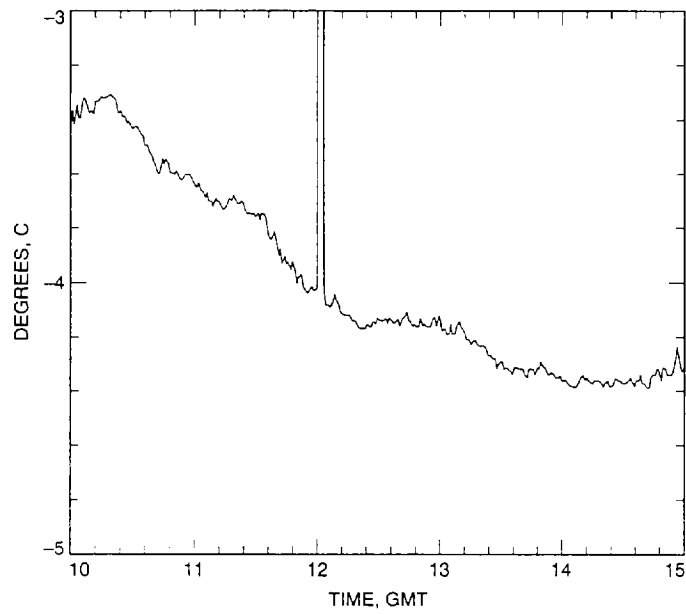
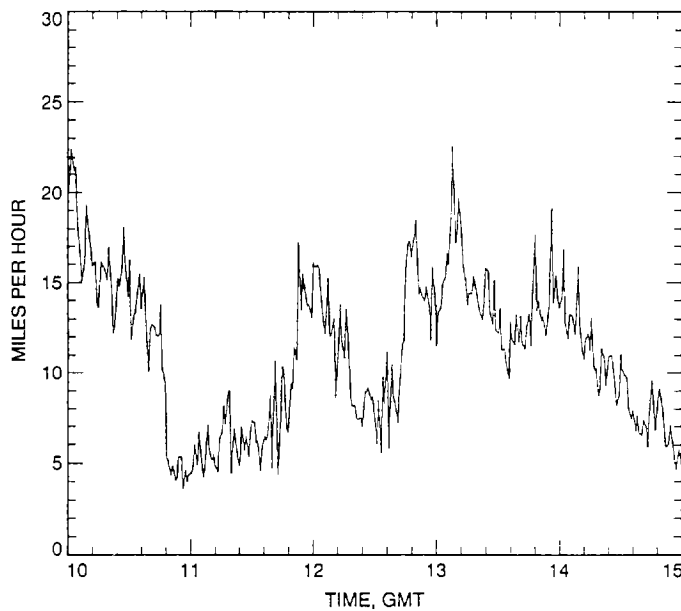


Fig. C-4. Secondary mirror temperature, day 344, December 9, 1992.

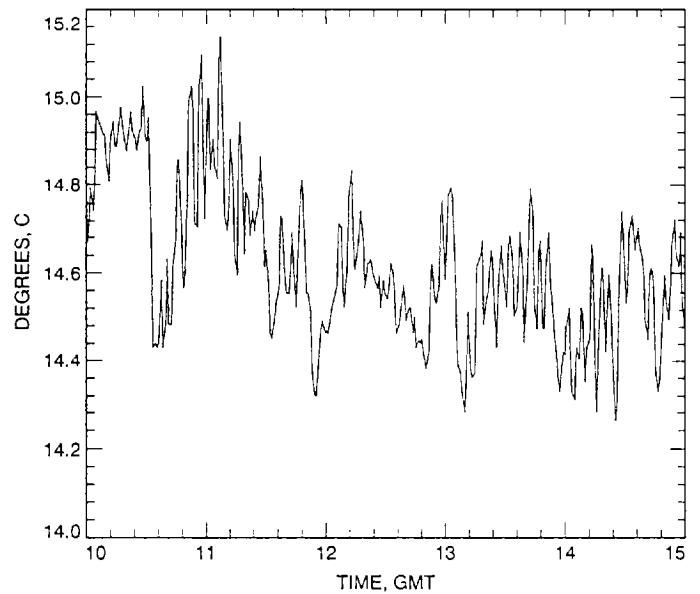




**Fig. C-5. Ambient air dew point, Tower Number 2, day 344, December 9, 1992.**



**Fig. C-6. Tower Number 1 wind speed, top, day 344, December 9, 1992.**



**Fig. C-7. Optical path air temperature at M8 (see Fig. 2), day 344, December 9, 1992.**